to see that hygienic drinks are produced? It does not matter whether they are in the small sector or major sector.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: That is the duty of the State Government. Under the Food Control Act, they will certainly control it.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: This is the third session consecutively that we have not heard any definite reply from the Government with regard to the Punjab Government's proposal for Pepsi Cola project. That project will not only help the Punjab Government but also the Jammu and Kashmir Government.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It does not arise out of this question. This is a general question.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: It will definitely help in bringing down the prices. Will the hon. Minister categorically state when this is being taken up?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: We are not considering Pepsi Cola question now.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: I am a little surprised by the Minister's statement. The hon. Minister says that Double Cola is an NRI project. Is it the policy of the Government that if it is under NRI, anything and everything can be imported? What is the import content of Double Cola as a fraction? Is there any import duty and if so, what is that fraction? Thirdly, is there any excise duty and if so, what is the fraction of the excise duty imposed on that? Is the hon. Minister aware that in China also, after allowing import of Pepsi Cola and Coca Cola, they have developed a soft drink which has competed Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola out of China? Is he aware of that? Are they trying to establish contact with China because this is also a populistic property?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: I have no contacts with China. I don't know anything about it. There is no import con- of concentrate for Double Cola. Therefore, there is no question of the Government showing favour.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: You say that Double Cola is an NRI project. It means foreign exchange. You are increasing consumption of foreign exchange on each and every item. Is that the policy of the Government? What is the import content?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: It is hundred per cent NRI project. It is a small scale unit. They are not importing any formulations from the United States.

*[*The questioners (Shri Ashwani Kumar and Shri Lal K. Advani) were absent, for answer, vide col. infra*].

Poor quality BHEL equipment

*183. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:†
SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY: be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 25 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th July, 1987 and state;

(a) whether Central Electricity Authority has enquired into Assam Government's charge that the BHEL equipment is poor in quality, which has resulted in fall in power generation at Bongaigaon and Namrup power stations; and

(b) if so, what are the findings of the investigation and the follow up action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

As a result of the visits of the engineers of the Central Electricity Authority, M/s. BHEL and the Assam State Electricity Board to the Bongaigaon thermal stations the measures necessary to improve its performance have been identified for implemnetation both the ASEB and BHEL. These measures include posting of adequately

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kapil Verma.

traned operation and maintennace staff, adoption of sound maintenance practices including preventive maintenance, and improved spare parts management and housekeeping practices by ASEB. The measures taken by BHEL include over-hauling of coal mills, rewinding and repairs of generators, and removal of defects in some motors of auxiliary equipments.

An accident had occurred in Gas Turbine No. I at Namrup thermal station which has affected its performance. An inquiry has revealed that the accident had occurred due to an intentional closure of the damper in the flue gas path leading to the waste heat recovery boiler. M/s. BHEL have since identified the remedial measures required.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: The Central Electricity Authority has enquired into the functioning of the two power stations. The enquiry says that the instrument panels are full of dust, the indicator lights are found off at many places, coal is mixed with water, lubrication oil for equipment has been drained out, costly valves have been stolen and the power plant is functioning with half of the staff required for full operation. The statement says that a meeting was held of the three bodies and a certain action plan was formulated. I want to know whether the action plan has been implemented or not. The enquiry report shows that it has not been implemented. I want to know whether the Assam Electricity Board has taken any follow-up action.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: An enquiry was conducted. A team of the C.E.A. had gone there and investigated. They had come to certain conclusions. There were a number of deficiencies of different types. They are looking into these. They found that many of these deficiencies have been rectified. Where these have taken rectified, there has been a marked improvement. At the same time, the State Electricity Board has also to improve its operational efficiency and maintenance. This aspect is also to be looked into. We found that there is much to be done.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: What are the complaints of the Assam Electricty Board about the BHEL machines supplied for the two power stations? Is it correct that this controversy has been raised after the Centre has rejected Assam Government's request to import gas turbines for 45 MW Lukwa power stations?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I will reply to the latter part of the question first. It is true that the Centre or the Empowered Committee has rejected the import of equipment for the Lukwa power project because we have indigenous equipment available in the country. As the same time, this matter has been pending. A number of deficiencies have been found. The deficiencies of the equipment supplied by BHEL are being looked into. At the same time, the work culture operating in Assam is not up to the mark. Therefore, every attempt is being made to see that they work in a better way. There was a time, Madam, when we found that the PLF has gone as low as 1 per cent, 2 per cent or 9 per cent. But now it has come back to 15 per cent. Therefore with a better co-operation and understanding and also because the Ahmedabad State Electricity Board is providing some consultants who will go into the entire work; it will be seen if any further improvement can be brought about.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Madam the reply to the main question is not very clear. It is rather evasive. The question was whether the machinery supplied by BHEL was of poor quality. Madam, it is a fact that various thermal power stations are experiencing some breakdowns because of the poor quality of the machinery supplied by BHEL as in Santhaldih. I would like to know whether they have examined that the machinery supplied by the BHEL is of right quality and if it has any deficiency whether they are taking any measures to improve the quality of machinery manufactured by the BHEL so that thermal power stations do not suffer because of the deficiency in plants.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI: Whereas I agree with the latter part of the

Hon. Member's observation that they must work satisfactorily and there should not be constant failures, here we have also found that deficiencies have been identified as some of these have been brought back and they are working better. The PLF has improved. At the same time I I would also like to say that the entire performance must also improve. The type of machine which is there in Bongaigaon just now is also at many other stations and their performance is absolutely satisfactory. Therefore the operations and maintenance part in electricity boards in Assam must also improve so that the same machines or same design which is working satisfactorily in other power stations; the same sort of improvement can be brought about here also.

श्री अजीत जोगी : मैडम, यह आम बात हो गई है कि भेल जो इक्वीपमेन्ट्स और मशीनरी देता है, लोग उसकी क्वालिटी की शिकायत करते हैं और दूसरी तरफ भेल का यह कहना है कि जो उपयोग करने वाले लोग हैं, वे उनका उपयोग ठीक से नहीं करते हैं और इसलिये शिकायत होती है। इस बारे में सबसे मुख्य बात भेल का जो रिसर्च एण्ड डेवलपमेन्ट विंग है, उसकी परफोमेन्स की भी है। ऐसी बहुत से इक्वीपमेन्ट्स और मशीनरी है, जिनका निर्माण फारन कोलेबेरेशन से 15-20 साल पहले किया गया था, आज तक रिसर्च एण्ड डेवलपमेंट विंग ऐसी योग्यता हासिल नहीं कर सका है कि उनका निर्माण वह यहां स्थानीय रूप से कर सके और यही कारण हैं कि भेल की मशीनों और इक्वीपमेंट की शिकायतें आम तौर पर होती आ रही हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं पूछना चाहूंगा कि क्या अब भेल के आर० एण्ड डी० विंग को मजबूत किया जायेगा जिससे कम से कम ऐसा सामान और मशीनें जो 15-20 साल पहले से फारन कोलेबोरेशन से बनाई जा रही हैं, वह उनको बनाने की योग्यता खुद हासिल कर सके ?

श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी : भेल के संबंध में कुछ शिकायतें समय-समय पर आती हैं जैसे उसकी सप्लाई में डिले हो जाती है और कभी कभी उनकी इनएफिसिएन्सी भी सामने आ जाती है, जैसा इस केस में हुआ है। इनमें हम सुधार करने की कोशिश करते हैं। जहां तक भेल की बात है, यह इन्टरनेशनल टेण्डर भी विन करता है और एवार्ड भी पाता है और हमारे जो बड़े-बड़े थर्मल पावर स्टेशन हैं, उनमें भी यह सक्सेसफुल रहा है। लेकिन हमें इसको गहराई से देखना है कि जो डेफिसिएन्सी हमको मिलती है, उनमें सुधार करा जाये जिससे हमारे पावर प्लान्ट्स को अच्छी तरह से चलाया जा सके।

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Madam, Deputy Chairperson from the statement it appears to me that the equipment made by BHEL was not of poor quality. It was because of the maintenance and management of the equipment that these faults were brought to the notice and not because the equipment of BHEL was of poor quality. This is very clear from the statement and I would like to ask one question regarding the supply of some motors of auxiliary equipment and I understand there some defects were found. I would like to know from whom these motors were purchased, whether it was from the BHEL or from others and what action has been taken to remove them.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Madam, first I would like to reply to a question which was raised by an Hon. Member who wanted to know what the strength of the units of the machine in Assam was. I would like to say that it was of 60 MW. Secondly, apart from some deficiencies which have been found in the equipment, they have been attended to by them in respect of three out of four units. And the remaining unit would also be attended to in course of time. About the details that he has asked for about the source, I would need a separate question.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: I want to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that during 1981 and 1986, 60 MW unit was supplied by BHEL to Assam State Electricity Board, which

is yet to stabilise, and due to which, the Assam State Electricity Board incurred losses of crores of rupees. Secondly, due to manufacturing defects, the unit installed at the Assam Power Project in Namrup, damaged the modern plant, and the Electricity Board will have to spend a staggering amount of Rs. 10 crores on repairs. That is why, the Assam Government, or the Assam State Electricty Board filed a case for compensation against the BHEL for an amount of Rs. 43.07 crores. I want to know whether the Minister is aware of it.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Yes, it was due to an accident, and the accident was partially due to design and equipment supplied by the BHEL, because that was an experiment carried out by them and that was not very successful. At the same time, as the Committee had said, there was a attempt at mischief, and it was an intentional accident. So, both these things have been identified; there has been a loss of Rs. 8 crores, and now every attempt is being made to see that it is brought back and restored as early as possible.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Energy is the raw material for any development, whether industrial or agricultural. State Governments and Electricity Boards have complained about the poor quality and unsatisfactory performance of BHEL equipment. About 25 per cent of the power stoppage is attributed to malfunctioning of BHELsupplied power sets. The Government of Gujarat, for instance, has complained several times about the poor quality of BHEL equipment, delayed supply of spares in the event of a breakdown, etc. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether a study has been made of all these complaints received from various State Governments and Electricity Boards and whether in view of better performance of imported equipment and power sets, like the one we have at Dhuvaran in Gujarat, the Government plan to import such equipment, and if so, to what extent.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Energy is the core sector in agriculture, in industry, and everything and we are very conscious that energy should be made available to a larger extent. Complaints have been there aganst BHEL and many of the States have complained about many of these things, and they are being looked into. About the latter part of the queston, we are not aware and we do not think it is necessary to import that.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: May I add to what my colleague has said. It is Government's clear policy that when indigenous equipment is available and of a good quality, we do not want to encourage import of equipment. As far as BHEL is concerned, by and large, we have found that BHEL equipment is good. As far as Gujarat is concerned, I myself went there to Ahmedabad Electricity Supply Company and I was happy to note that they were full of praise for the BHEL equipment that was supplied and at which they are working. If there is proper coordination—it is my experience—between the State Electricity Board and the BHEL, the same equipment works better and is maintained better. I can give examples of Andhra, of Maharashtra, of Madhya Pradesh, any number of them.

As far as the present question of Assam is concerned, I had a meeting with their Minister and also with the Chairman, Assam State Electricity Board, and I found that lack of proper maintenance and proper trained staff, is the real reason. We have asked BHEL to send a team of their own people. There have been, right from the beginning, about 15 to 20 engineers permanently from BHEL there

Madam, I beg to submit. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: All over the country, modernisation programmes are being undertaken. But in the case of BHEL, there are no innovations. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This has nothing to do with renovation. (*Interruptions*) I cannot reply to interruptions.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: The equipment has failed. It is the BHEL's responsibility to maintain it. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VASANT SATHE: It is not the responsibility of BHEL. Maintenance is the responsibility of the State Electricity Boards.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Machinery was deliberately sabotaged. This is what the report says. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VASANT SATHE: In Namrup, it was deliberately sabotaged. This has been pointed out in the report of a committee appointed by the Assam State Electricity Board itself. Therefore, we know that it was a case of sabotage as far as Namrup is concerned.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Definitely not.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Your own report says that.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Madam, I do not share some of the views expressed by Members from both sides of the House. As far as we are aware, initially, there was trouble in regard to the 60 MW unit. But BHEL does supply excellent quality. It has standardised the 60 MW equipment. It is also to be noted that maintenance by the State Electricity Boards all over he country need to be over hauled. Talking about West Bengal we know about it, that a good deal of improvement in the working of the State Elecricity Board is called for. As I said. initially, there was trouble. But the real question, as has been suggested here is, when they stablise 60MW, what is asked for is 200 MW, which is not a standardised product. When they stabilise 200 MW, what is asked for is 500 MW. Therefore. BHEL is forced to enter into colaborations with foreign firms—it has been mentioned in this House—or direct import requests are made. May I seek an assurance from the hon. Minister that such steps will be avoided? If we have to stabilise 500 MW, only that has to be standardised. This is one. Secondly, there are complaints from the State Electricity Boards and there are certain technical defects also. I suggest that a conference of BHEL engineers and SEB authorities should be called. They should discuss and decide which part of the responsibility belongs to whom. They should settle this question once and for all. Would he accept this suggestion?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This excellent suggestion of the hon. Member has already been implemented in practice. As far as the first suggestion is concerned, we do not agree with it. (*Interruptions*). You have to constantly update and improve. In other parts of the world, if they are going in for technologies in regard to 500 MW or 800 MW, which become economical, we cannot say that we will stay put at 60 MW or 200 MW. In that event, we will have to be content with obsolescence. This cannot be done.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Instead of upgarding, you are going in for imports.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We do not.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: You upgrade it here.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This is what we are trying to do. (*Interruptions*). Madam, I am happy to state that BHEL is now in a position to manufacture the 500 MW unit also. Do not underrate our people. We must encourage them to update it. This is what we are doing.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: What I am pointing out is that you are underrating the public sector.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We never do that.

SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: The hon. Minister has said that due to bad maintanance, some damage was caused to the equipment at Namrup. But we know that the damage was because of the obsolete equipment. As a result of this damage, the whole State is facing an acute problem. When the hon. Minister says that some saboteur tried to damage the plant, I would like to know whether any case has been filed againt anybody.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: How will I know that? Madam, I read out from the report : 'A committee was constituted by the Assam State Eelectriciy Board to look into the cause of an accident which had occurred in Gas Turbine No. I at Namrup thermal station which had affected its performance. The Committee has concluded that the accident had occured due to an intentional closure of the damper in the flue gas path leading to the wastage recovery boiler. The Committee has also concluded that system supply by BHEL was vulnerable and BHEL has taken steps to correct that. But the fact remains that if the people operating there try to sabotage, action has to be taken by the State Government I hope they will do that.

*184. [*The questioner (Shri Sunil Kumar Pattnaik) was absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 34 *infra*].

Reducing the Manufacturing cost of cement

*185. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cement industry has been asked by Government to adopt technological measures to minimise consumption of energy and to reduce the manufacturing cost of cement and its retail prices for the consumer;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) which other industries have been asked to adopt such technological measures; and

(d) what has been the response of the industry to the said suggestion of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government have been advising the cement industry to make appropriate technoogical changes to reduce energy consumption and manufacturing costs. As the consumption of energy in a dry process cement plant is much less than that in a wet process cement plant, Government have been encouraging conversion of old wet process plants into dry process plants. In order to encourage such conversion, the Government have decided that a cement unit will be treated as a new unit for purposes of levy obligation if it sets up a new dry process kiln by scrapping the old wet process kiln or by converting its wet process into a dry process kiln and also increases its production capacity by 100 per cent or more, as a result of such conversion|scrapping. As regards the response from the cement industry, 3 cement plants have set up dry process kilns with a total capacity of 1.86 million tonnes by scrapping|converting old wet process kiln with a capacity of 1.27 million tonnes during the last four years. Ten more cement plants with existing capacity of 4.26 million tonnes have already undertaken plans to scrap|convert their wet kilns into dry process kilns.

(c) and (d) In order to promote fuel efficiency in automotive vehicles, special incentives for energy conservation have been announced. Further, based on the studies of the National Productivity Council and the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices, which have identified energy saving potential in a number of industries, an awareness has been sought to be created to bring about specific energy conservation measures in these industries.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: माननीया उपसभापति जी, मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर "ए" और "बी" में यह बताया कि एनर्जी कन्ज्म्पशन कम हो, इसको मद्देनजर रखते हुए सरकार कोल्ड वेट प्रोसेस सीमेंट प्लांटस को ड्राई प्रोसेस सीमेंट प्लांट्स में कन्वर्ट करने के लिये काफी प्रोत्साह